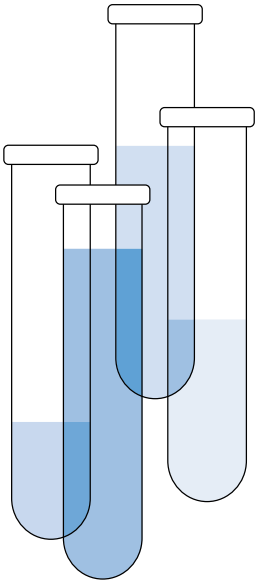
United Water

United Water Laredo
5816 Daugherty
Laredo, TX 78041



CCR Important Information!

- Your water meets or surpasses all state and federal regulations for safe drinking water.
- Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistancia en español, favor de llamar al telefono 956 523 6561.

Dear Customer

United Water Laredo is a partnership between United Water and the City of Laredo. Through this partnership, the City retains ownership of all the water facilities including the treatment plant and distribution system. United Water, as contract operator, provides the day to day management of the water system. These organizations work together to provide you with water that meets—and often surpasses—all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All the test results are on file with the TCEQ, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. The EPA and the TCEQ establish these regulations. They also require water suppliers to mail a Water Quality Report to customers on an annual basis. This Water Quality Report contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at 956 523 6561 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. In addition, you can write to us at the above address or you can attend a City Council meeting on the first and third Mondays. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 4791 with water-related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

Water Quality Report 2002 *(Issued June 2003)*

PWSID #TX2400001

Health Note

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800 426 4791.

Conservation Tips

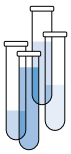
We encourage our customers to use water wisely. You can reduce your water consumption by up to 25 percent by taking just a few simple steps. Conservation helps reduce the strain on the water system while helping to ensure that water is available for essential fire fighting needs. Saving water also reduces the cost of energy required to pump water. You can help save water by following these conservation tips:

- Check your faucets for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- Check your toilet for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If it shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. A leaking toilet can lose up to 100 gallons a day.
- Take shorter showers or install water-saving shower heads.
- Chill tap water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Run the washing machine and the dishwasher only with full loads.
- Set your lawn mower one notch higher. Longer grass allows less evaporation.
- Make sure your hose has a shut-off nozzle.

About United Water

The City of Laredo selected United Water to operate and manage its water and wastewater systems. Services include water and wastewater treatment, biosolids management, water distribution, wastewater collection, industrial pretreatment, customer service and metering. United Water began serving Laredo in October 2002.

Founded in 1869, United Water provides water and wastewater services to 11 million people in the United States. In addition to owning and operating utilities, United Water also operates municipal systems through public-private partnerships and contract agreements. Four of the nation's largest water and wastewater contracts are operated by United Water. You can learn more about United Water by visiting www.unitedwater.com.



Drinking Water Quality Table

This water quality table lists the drinking water contaminants that were detected in calendar year 2002. The presence of these substances does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless indicated all the data shown in this table is from testing done January 1, 2002-December 31, 2002.

Substance Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Barium ppm	2	2	0.073	0.073 - 0.073	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride ppm	4	4	0.57	0.57 - 0.57	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate ppm	10	10	0.06	0.06 - 0.06	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Erosion of natural deposits

	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Samples > AL	Violation	Likely Source
Copper ppm	1.3	1.3	0.036	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead ppb	0	15	1.24	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Microbiologicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Total Coliform bacteria, % positive	0	5	1.59	0 - 1.59	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (% ≤0.3 NTU)	NA	TT	97	97 - 100	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity*	NA	TT	0.5	0.01 - 0.7	No	Soil runoff

*Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We measure it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

Radionuclides	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Combined radium pCi/l	0	5	1.3	1.3 - 1.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
TOC removal ratio	NA	TT	1.5	0 - 2.2	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total Haloacetic Acids ppb	NA	60	16	5.4 - 32	No	By-product of disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes ppb	NA	80	60	47 - 93	No	By-product of disinfection

	MRDLG	MRDL	Highest Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Chloramines ppm	4	4	1.5	0 - 3.1	No	By-product of disinfection

Definitions for the Drinking Water Quality Table

Action Level (AL)
The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)
The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary in drinking water for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)
The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA
Not applicable

NTU
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

PPB
Parts per billion.

PPM
Parts per million.

PCi/L
Picocuries per liter.

Treatment Technique (TT)
A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

About Your Water Supply and Treatment Process

The Laredo water system provides roughly 40 million gallons of treated and purified water daily for nearly 200,000 residents in the metropolitan Laredo area. The source of your drinking water is the Rio Grande River.

At United Water we strive to provide you with drinking water that meets or surpasses all state and federal standards. Water is purified at the Jefferson Street Water Treatment Plant. We purify the water using chemical treatment as well as settling and filtration techniques. Water treatment chemicals include lime, ferric sulfate, chloramines (chlorine and ammonia), alum, and polymers. These are added to remove impurities, kill harmful bacteria and eliminate unpleasant tastes and odors. Once the water is treated, the water is transported under pressure through a system of storage tanks and a 450-mile network of pipes to your tap.

Bottled Water or Tap Water?

The sources of drinking water (for both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. So, what's the bottom line? If bottled and tap water meet the federal standards, they are both safe to drink. However, your tap water is substantially less expensive than bottled water.

On the Web

You can find a copy of the Water Quality Report on the web at www.cityoflaredo.com. You can learn more about United Water by visiting www.unitedwater.com. To learn more about environmental issues, visit www.epa.gov. To learn more about Texas' Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) visit www.tceq.state.tx.us.